

**Partnership Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 7-8, 2008**

**Meeting Location: W. Kerr Scott Lake, Wilkesboro, NC**

Attending

Miriam Fleming, HQ  
Phil Benge, NWW  
Mike Hosey, SAW  
Richard Otto, MVP

Cori Brown, NAB  
Chris Gallagher, SPN  
Chris Rapenchuk, LRL

**1. Team Member Information**

- a) We were informed by Mary Coulombe that The Senior Policy Advisor for Partnerships position, formerly held by Debra Stokes will not be filled. This FTE was re-allocated to Hydropower. Further, after Miriam Fleming's detail ends on November 4, 2009 there will not be another employee detailed to this position.
- b) Welcome to Chris Rapenchuk, who has joined the team representing LRD.
- c) Cori Brown will be rotating off the team in March 2010. At that time a replacement will be needed to represent NAD.
- d) Jeff Boutwell was elected as the PAC chair for a 3 year term beginning in March 2010.

**2. Conference Call with Mary Coulombe**

- a) Since the FTE has been lost for the Senior Policy Leader position, Mary has asked that the team draft a paper that explains why the position is vital to the Corps. This should include impacts of not filling the position and address the need at a national level. Miriam will draft an overview and team members will comment and provide additional justification.
- b) An additional task is to determine who will pick up the duties previously performed by Debra and the detailers.
- c) Mary addressed work being assigned to the ERDC team (Scott Jackson and Kathy Perales). They have retained Emilyn Sheffield of the University of California and are looking at user demographics, focusing on data information gaps. ERDC has also hired a new person Meredith Bridgers from NRPA who will be helping ERDC in finding ways to communicate the relevance of the NRM program in a more effective way. She will be working on materials similar to the Value to the Nation publication and other projects as determined by ERDC.
- d) The NRM CoP has begun working on the national conference to be held in March 2010. Larry Bogue of SWD is heading up this project. Chris Rapenchuk will represent the PAC in planning this conference since partnerships will be a key element in the conference.
- e) Mary also feels the PAC should recommend a training curriculum for partnerships. She is very supportive of the training held at APPL each year and would like the team to look at other training, including training provided by other agencies.
- f) Funding for the PAC for 2010 and 2011 is secure.

**3. Association of Partners for Public Lands Conference (APPL)**

- a) The next APPL Conference will be held in San Diego, California on February 7-10, 2010.
- b) The Corps will have a one hour session on Monday of the conference. Partnerships 101 will not be conducted. The focus will be on allowing COE attendees to network and discuss partnership activities at their projects.
- b) There was a general discussion concerning the content of the training to be held on Thursday and Friday of the conference week.

Agreed upon presenters were as follows:

- 1. Doug Cox to discuss how to move partnerships forward within the Corps (Partnership 201). Miriam will contact him
- 2. Ray Auger of the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Chris Gallagher will call him.
- 3. Another Handshake panel should be conducted. Team members should suggest good Handshake projects within their MSC.

Other suggested presenters were:

- 1. Tom Griffin - National Youth Marine Alliance
- 2. Emilyn Sheffield – California State University, Chico
- 3. Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation (CNREF)
- 4. Kimberlee Riley - Jefferson National Parks Association

#### **4. OMBIL**

- a) Jonathan Davis would like to send one letter this year addressing the OMBIL requirements for all business lines.
- b) The PAC needs to help the field understand how important it is to get good information in to OMBIL. Cori is planning one or more video teleconferences to cover how to enter the new partnership information.

#### **5. Partnership Authorities**

- a) Mark McMurry, Assistant District Counsel at Fort Worth has submitted a memorandum to Mary Coulombe covering the existing statutory authorities held by the Corps. Mary is currently having the document reviewed by Susan Greenwood and Laura Norman of HQ OC to determine how to proceed. The PAC will be kept informed on the status of the partnership authorities update.

#### **6. Handshake Program**

- a) Mike reported that the funds for FY08 Handshake projects have all been expended except three. In these three cases the MIPR dates have been extended.
- b) All funds for the FY09 Handshake projects have been distributed to the project winners.
- c) The application deadline for FY10 projects has been extended until 31 Oct 2009. Mike will distribute the applications to team members for review and ranking.
- d) Mike needs comments on the report form to be used by Handshake winners after their project is complete. Suspense for comments is November 20, 2009.

#### **7. Excellence in Interpretive Partnership Award**

- a) The title of this award will be changed to “Excellence in Partnership Award”

- b) In the past the award was presented to an outstanding Cooperating Association based on a nomination from the local Corps project. The new award will be expanded to include all COE partners. Projects will nominate their partner based on criteria that will be provided through normal channels. Dick is the POC and will coordinate the announcement letter, review of nominations and presentation of the award at the APPL conference.

#### **8. Partnership discussion with W. Kerr Scott Staff**

- a) Terry Ramsey and staff provided a very nice tour of the W. Kerr Scott Project. The project has recently entered in to a cooperative management agreement with the Friends of W. Kerr Scott Cooperating Association. The Association is now operating one of the larger campgrounds at the project. Proceeds, which are derived from camping fees, go back to the Association where they spend about 50% on administrative costs and 50% on projects. The campground is still in the NRRS system and the NRRS contractor still retains their fee for each reservation, however revenues over and above the contractor cost go directly back to the Association. In effect this is a method of retaining camping fees.
- b) There was a very nice presentation concerning grant writing. The project's friends group writes all of the grants, many of which are with Lowes Corporation who are based in the local area.
- c) We toured the Forest Edge Amphitheatre at Fort Hamby Park, a new facility constructed in part with \$750,000 Recreation Area Modernization funds as well as significant private funds provided through the W. Kerr Scott Friends Association. This is a beautiful facility with 850 seats, complete sound and lighting systems and dressing rooms. The facility is used heavily by local community theatre groups and is an excellent example of how partnerships can be used in the Corps of Engineers.

Respectively Submitted,

Richard J. Otto